

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements by return of the Form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 5-12 and 14-16 contain allowable subject matter, on page 6 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 6 and 13 will have been canceled, claims 1, 5, 7, 10 and 14 will have been amended, and claims 21-27 will have been newly presented. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-27 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

On page 2 of the Official Action the drawings were objected to for the labeling of block S18 in Figure 3. Applicants note that a Replacement Sheet of Drawings containing Figure 3 is submitted herewith, in which the recommendation of the Examiner has been adopted (i.e., recitation of STOP THE ION GENERATOR 80 in the block S18).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the Drawings.

On page 2 of the Official Action the Title was objected to as not being descriptive. Applicants note that the title has been replaced by a title which is more descriptive of the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the Title.

Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Applicants further note that claim 5, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable, has been amended to place it into independent form. Applicants further note that claim 14, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable, has been amended to place it into independent form. Further, the remaining claims each depend from claim 1 or claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

On pages 3 and 4 of the Official Action, claims 1-4, 13 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed to be moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

P20764.A04

On pages 4 and 5 of the Official Action, claims 1 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed to be moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In regard to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-12 and 14-16 on page 6 of the Official Action, Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that various features of these claims are neither taught nor fairly suggested by the prior art. However, Applicants wish to make clear that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that the patentability of these claims is also based on the totality of the features recited therein, which define over the prior art. Thus the reasons for allowance should not be limited to those mentioned by the Examiner.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

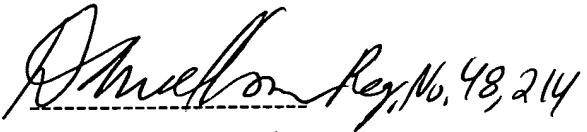
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
MOGAMIYA et al.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. Bernstein", followed by the text "Reg. No. 48,214" written in a similar cursive style.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

November 11, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191